

similar flat floor elements to which are attached roller elements, ball elements, latch elements, PDUs (powered drive units) or similar functional units, as well as floor beams or similar supporting elements to support the floor elements and to be connected to a body or a skin of the aircraft, in that the floor elements are fixedly connected to the supporting elements so as to form prefabricated floor modules and the floor modules can be installed in the aircraft.

[0005] Regarding the method, the objective is achieved by a method for assembling an aircraft cargo-compartment floor that comprises the following steps:

- The panels, or similar flat floor elements for the fixation of roller elements, ball elements, latch elements, PDUs or similar functional units, are attached to floor beams or similar supporting elements that support the floor elements and are to be connected to a body or skin of the aircraft, so that the panels together with the supporting elements constitute prefabricated floor modules that can be manipulated as a unit,
- A floor module is lifted into the cargo compartment, and
- The supporting elements are fastened to the body or skin of the aircraft.

[0006] Hence the basis ~~an essential point~~ of the invention resides in the fact that the supporting elements, in particular floor beams, are no longer considered as parts of the aircraft fuselage to which the floor elements are to be fastened while inside the aircraft. Instead, the supporting elements or floor beams are considered to be elements of the cargo-compartment floor, which together with the floor elements form floor

modules and which then, as a whole, can be installed in the aircraft or cargo compartment in the prefabricated state. In this way the installation is not only made very much simpler, but also the floor modules can be set up outside the constricting cargo compartment, where they are readily accessible, and assembled to the desired level of construction, so that errors can be avoided and in many cases it is even possible to employ completely different assembly methods (e.g., automated and performed by robots) that could not be used inside the cargo space. Furthermore, sites below the floor elements are made accessible that could not be reached at all in the case of cargo-compartment floors constructed in the conventional manner or with conventional assembly methods.

In Paragraph [0025] to [0028], please amend the paragraphs as follows.

[0024] Preferred embodiments will now be described apparent ~~from the subordinate claims as well as the following description of an exemplary embodiment of the invention, which is explained in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings. figures, wherein~~

[0025] Fig. 1 is a perspective view drawing of part of a floor module prior to installation,

[0026] Fig. 2 is a view drawing similar to that in Fig. 1 but with the floor module installed,

[0027] Fig. 3 is a schematic perspective view drawing of a floor module as viewed from below,

[0028] Fig. 4 is a partial perspective view drawing of a detail of a floor element,